ACT 44 — COLOMBINE

U-UWHO-AA!!
CALM DOWN, MASARU-CHAN.
I MANIPULATE THE BUG-TYPE AUTOMATA USED AS PATHOGEN FOR THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME THAT NOW ROAM THE WORLD... "APOLLYON."
MY JOB AS ONE OF LES QUATRE PIONNIERS AT THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS WAS TO MANIPULATE THE BUGS...

SEE?
I CAN SUMMON BUGS IN THE AIR AND TURN THEM INTO VARIOUS THINGS.
ミュウウ

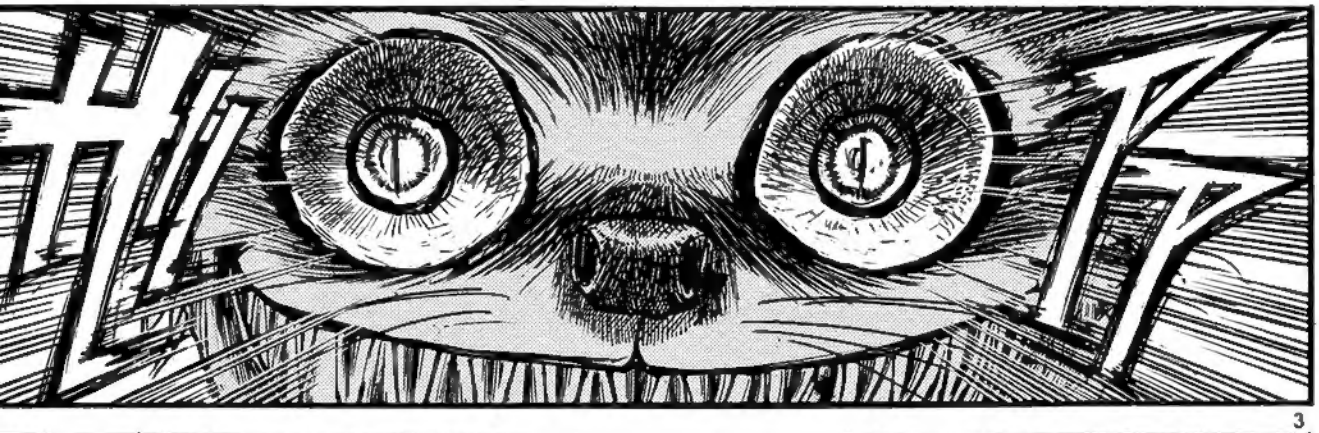
T-THIS IS...
HUHUM, A PARACHUTE MADE EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE TWO OF US.

HUH!?
WHERE DO YOU THINK THIS HOLE LEADS TO?

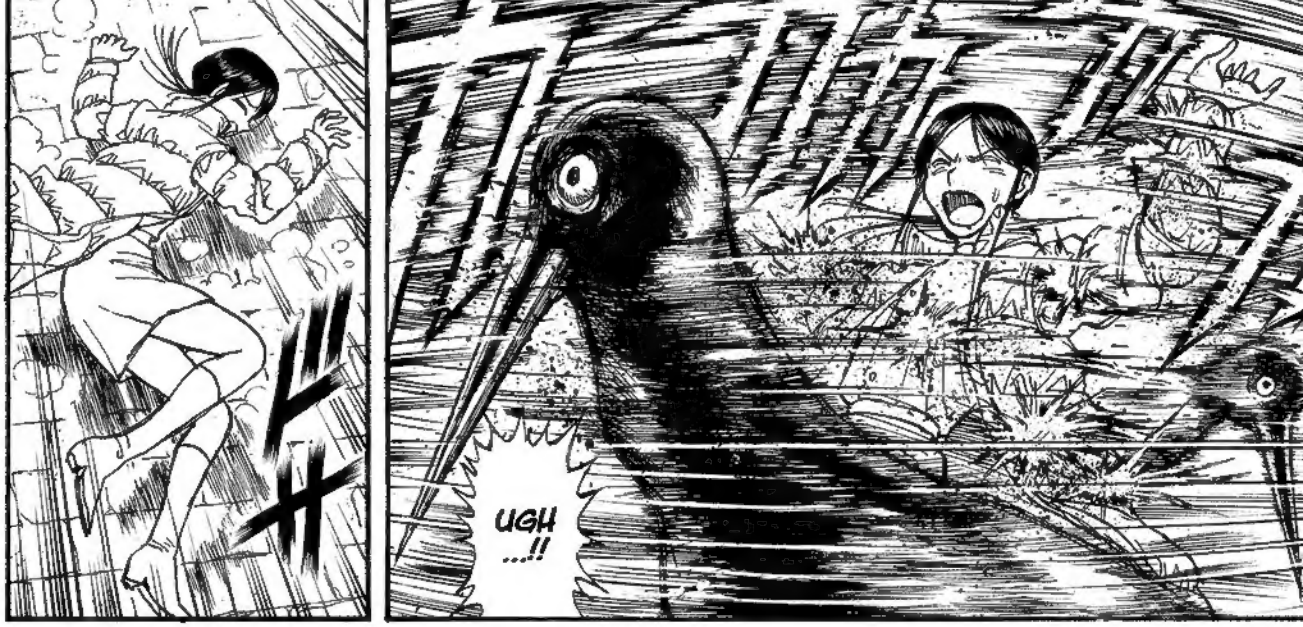
R-RIGHT UNDER HERE IS OUR...

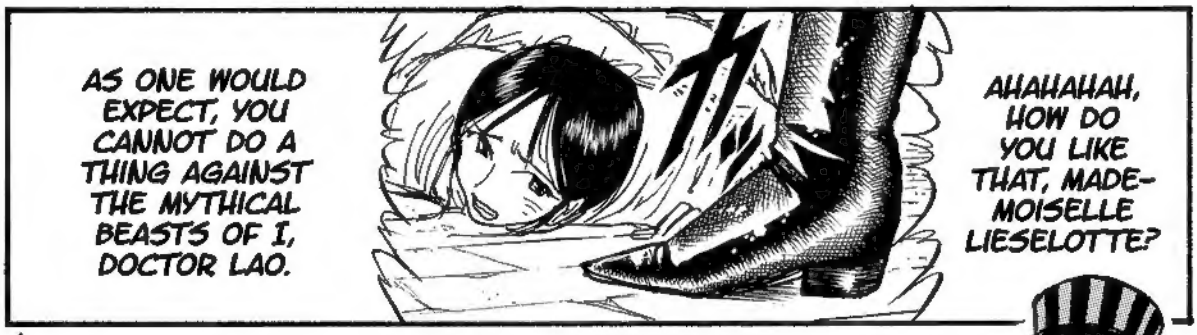
YES! MASARU IS SAFE! MASTER FACELESS WOULD'VE KILLED US OTHERWISE...
YOU IDIOT, HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED?
HUH?

YES!
AFTER HIM! DON'T LET HIM GET THERE!



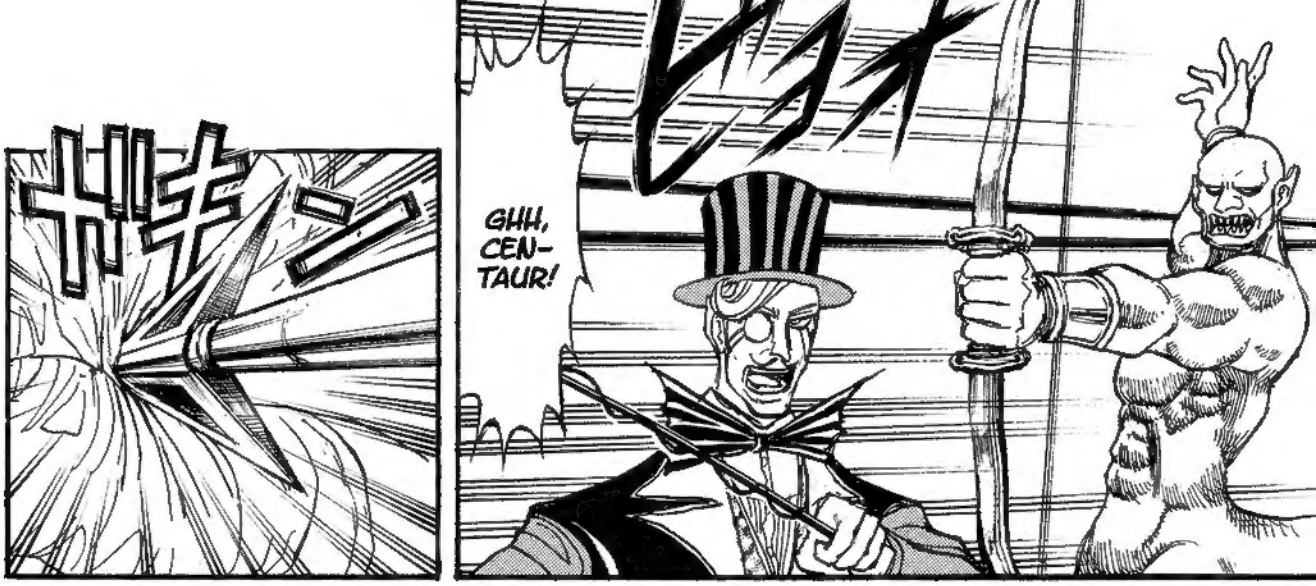
AH...!


UGH ...!!


AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, YOU CANNOT DO A THING AGAINST THE MYTHICAL BEASTS OF I, DOCTOR LAO.
AHAHAHAH, HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, MADE-MOISELLE LIESELOTTE?

NOW, KISS MY BOOTS!

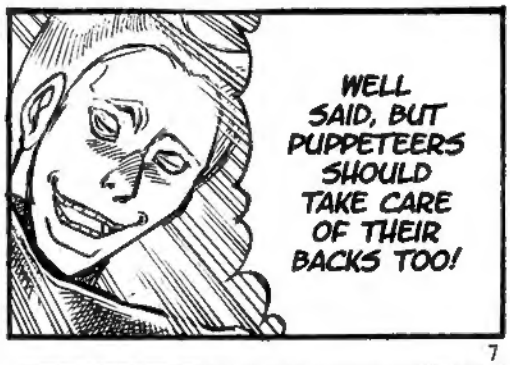
シャイイイ
IF YOU DO, I'LL GRANT YOU AN INSTANT DEATH.
THEN SAY THIS: "LORD LAO, MY ANIMAL TAMER SKILLS CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO COMPARE TO YOURS."
IF YOU KISS MY BOOTS, I'LL LET MY SNAKE WOMAN "BOWINA" STRANGLE YOU TO A PEACEFUL DEATH.
NOW, WHAT WILL YOU DO? DYING AS A PLAYTHING FOR MY MYTHICAL BEASTS WILL BE PAINFUL.
HMM??
LAO...
5
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO CALL YOURSELF AN ANIMAL TAMER!
A CIRCUS ANIMAL TAMER WOULD NEVER THREATEN SOMEONE WITH THEIR MENAGERIE.

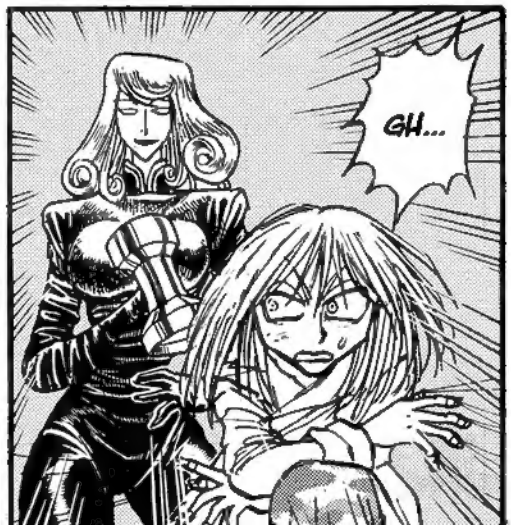

ヒュオ
GHH, CEN-TAUR!

IN THAT CASE, MY MYTHICAL BEASTS SHALL TORMENT YOU TO DEATH!
TCHH. VERY INTER-ESTING!

EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!
I WON'T LOSE TO YOU...

HEH HEH HEH, THE BRAT'S PRETTY GOOD.
KEH, I CAN DEFEAT YOU BASTARDS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!!


WELL SAID, BUT PUPPETEERS SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THEIR BACKS TOO!


GH...

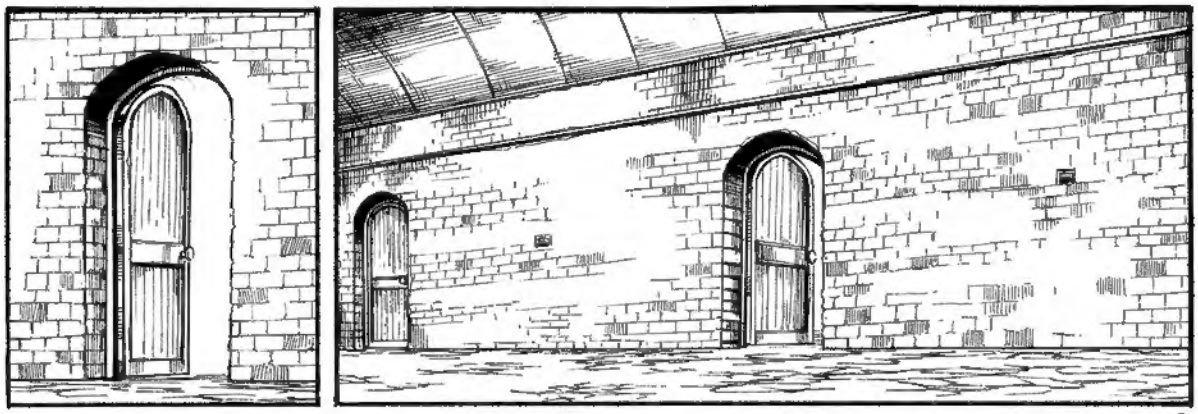
...I GUESS I CAN'T BE LIKE MASARU...
GAH!

...I LET HER ESCAPE.
STILL...

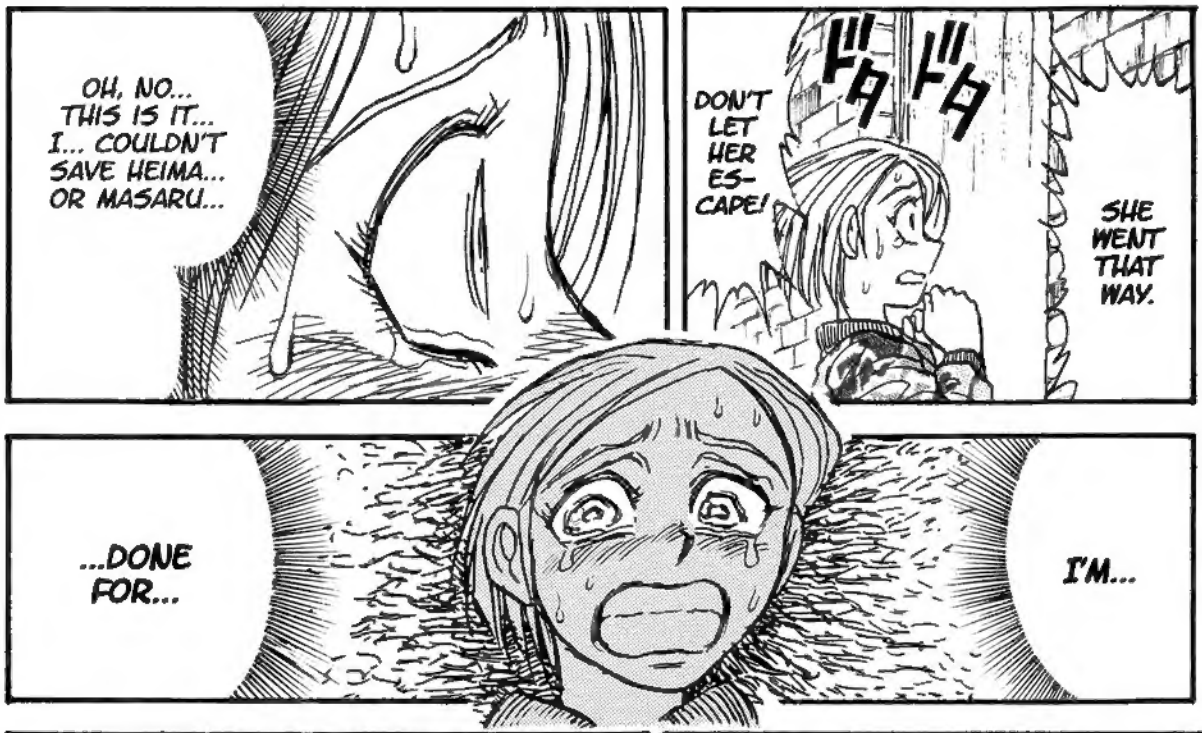
I DIDN'T EVEN BREAK A SWEAT.
KEHEHEH, I GUESS A PUPPETEER'S BEST SHOT IS AGAINST AUTOMATA.

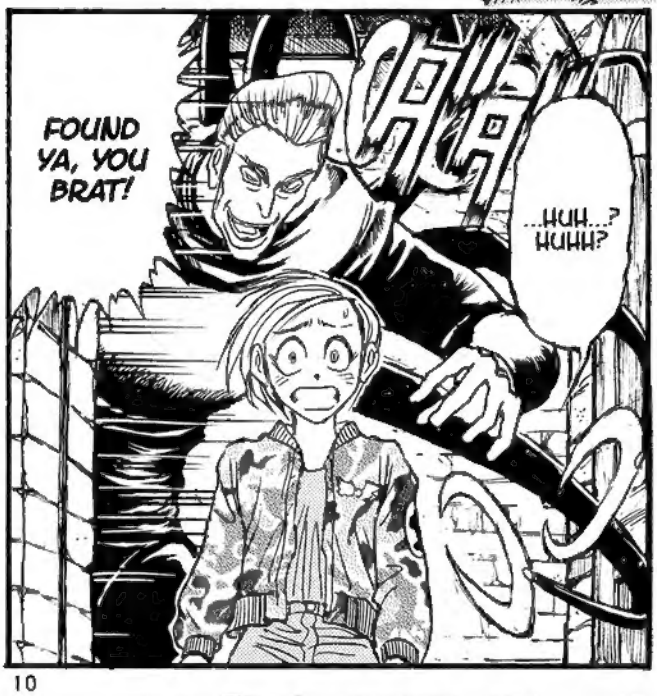
OH...?
SHUDDUP, TAKE THIS!

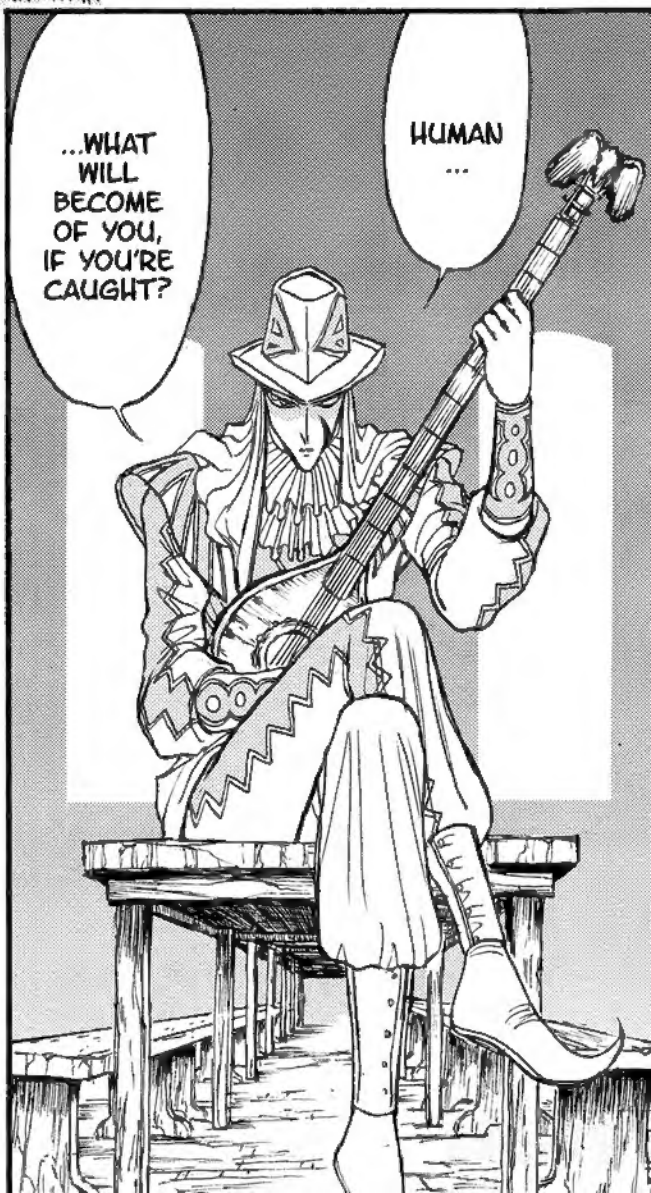
YOU'RE ALREADY DONE FOR.
DIRTY BRAT...



AN AUTO... MATON...
UH... AH...


OH, NO... THIS IS IT... I... COULDN'T SAVE HEIMA... OR MASARU...
DON'T LET HER ES-CAPE!
ドタ ドタ
SHE WENT THAT WAY.
...DONE FOR...
I'M...


FOUND YA, YOU BRAT!
...HUH...? HUHH?


...WHAT WILL BECOME OF YOU, IF YOU'RE CAUGHT?
HUMAN ...

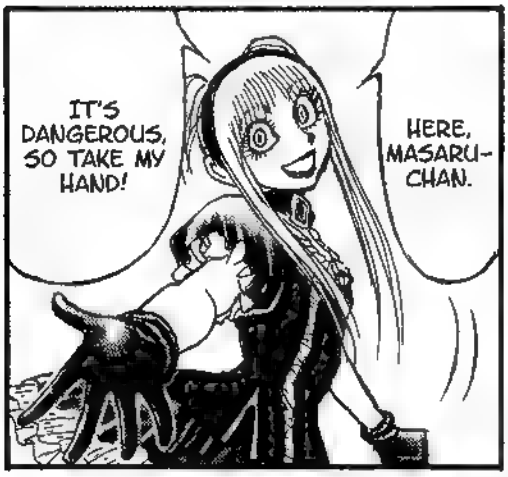
OH, LOOK WHO'S HERE.
IH ..!!

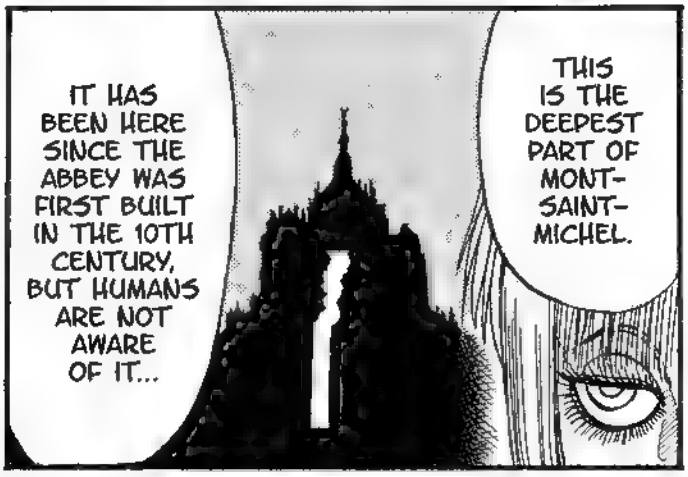
...IN-DEED ...
PLAYING THE GUITAR ALL ALONE IN THIS OLD DINING ROOM IS AWFULLY FITTING FOR A MOLDY DOLL LIKE YOU.
IF IT ISN'T ARLE-CCHINO.
I-IT HURTS!
NOW, COME OVER HERE!
HEH HEH HEH, HOW SHOULD WE OFF HER, ERICH?
...HEY, I'M TALKING TO YOU, ERICH.
IT'S KILL-ING TIME!

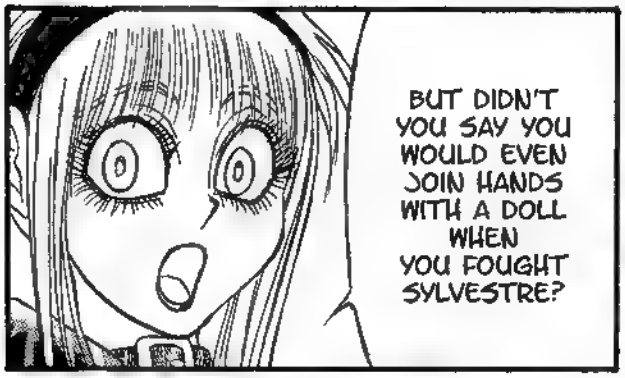
W... WHAT'RE YOU DOING, ARLECCHINO?

LES MAINS ECAR-LATE ...!!
LES ...
BY THE WAY...
TO NOT HURT ANY HUMANS...
LADY FRANCINE COMMAND-ED US...
THIS INSTRU-MENT IS A LUTE, DEAR O.

AHH, THAT WAS SO FUN. ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MASARU-CHAN?
YEAH ...


HERE, MASARU-CHAN.
IT'S DANGEROUS, SO TAKE MY HAND!

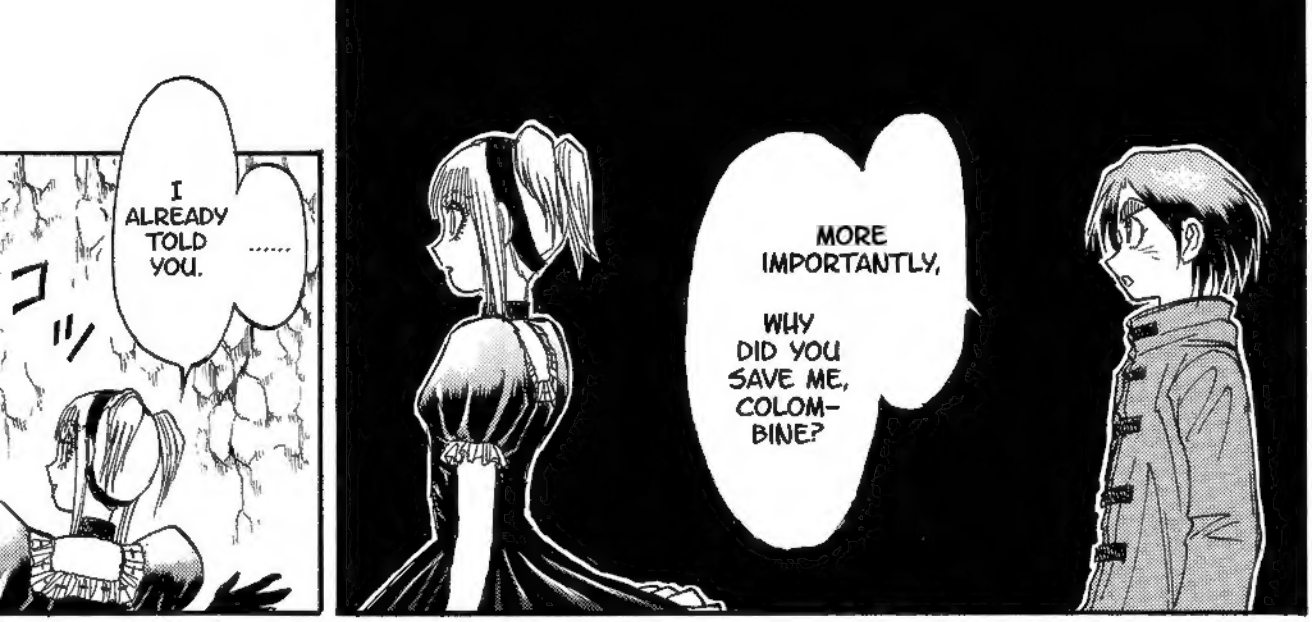

THIS IS THE DEEPEST PART OF MONT-SAINT-MICHEL.
IT HAS BEEN HERE SINCE THE ABBEY WAS FIRST BUILT IN THE 10TH CENTURY, BUT HUMANS ARE NOT AWARE OF IT...


BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WOULD EVEN JOIN HANDS WITH A DOLL WHEN YOU FOUGHT SYLVESTRE?

OH, MY... WON'T YOU HOLD MY HAND?
.....

MY... THAT'S TOO BAD...

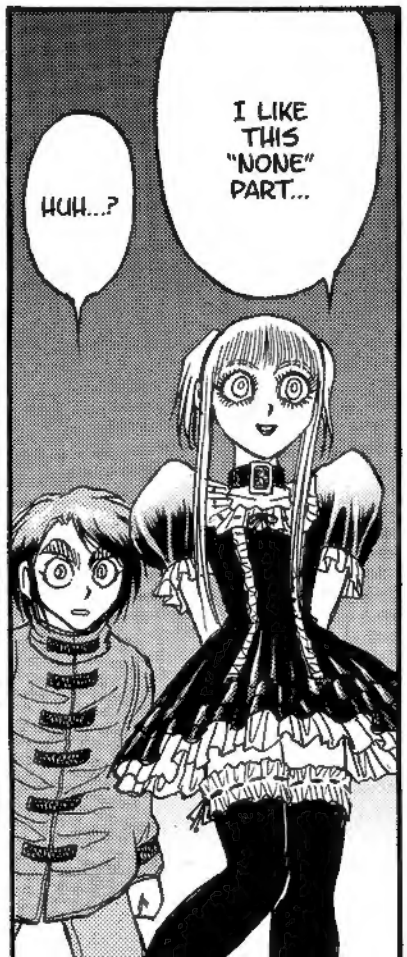
I... WON'T JOIN HANDS WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU ANYMORE.
SINCE THEN... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO KUROGA VILLAGE... NO, TO THE ENTIRE WORLD?

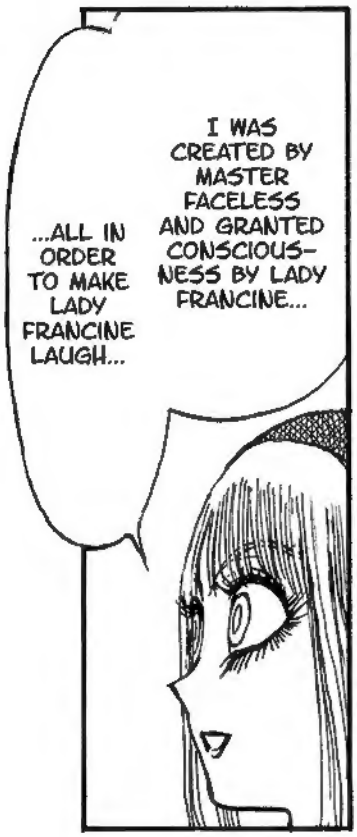

I ALREADY TOLD YOU.
.....
MORE IMPORTANTLY,
WHY DID YOU SAVE ME, COLOM-BINE?

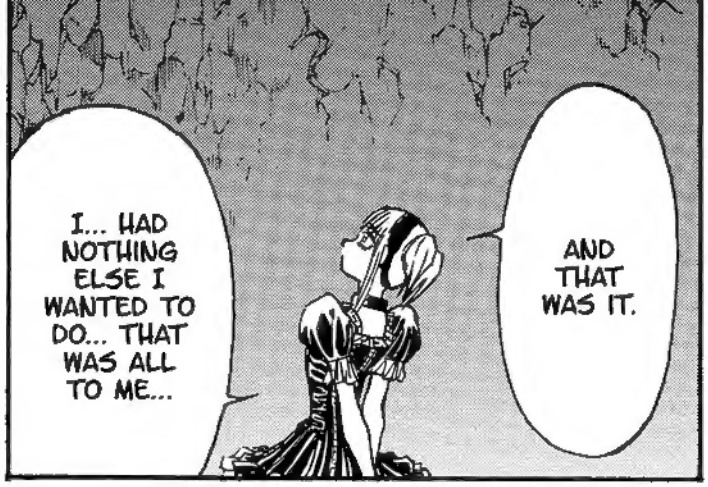
This little Piggy stayed home,
This little Piggy went to market,
HOLDING YOU ISN'T A VERY CONVINCING REASON!

This little Piggy had roast beef,
HEY, COLOM-BINE!!

This little Piggy had none...

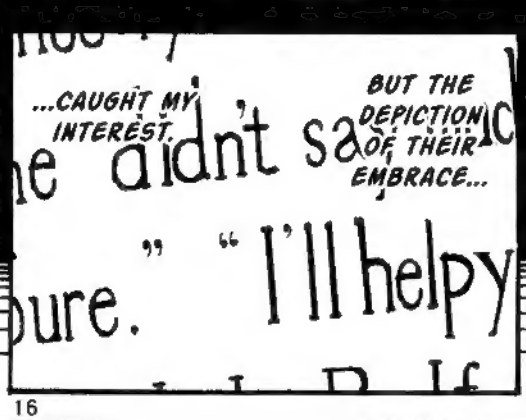

HUH...?
I LIKE THIS "NONE" PART...


...ALL IN ORDER TO MAKE LADY FRANCINE LAUGH...
I WAS CREATED BY MASTER FACELESS AND GRANTED CONSCIOUS-NESS BY LADY FRANCINE...

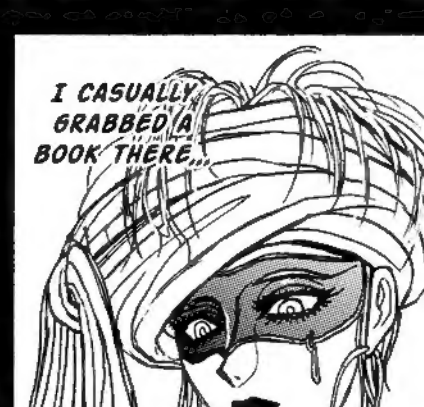

I... HAD NOTHING ELSE I WANTED TO DO... THAT WAS ALL TO ME...
AND THAT WAS IT.

I...
...KNOW ABOUT THAT.

I WENT TO A HUMAN LIBRARY ON A WHIM.
BUT ONE DAY...


...CAUGHT MY INTEREST.
BUT THE DEPICTION OF THEIR EMBRACE...

I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT.


I CASUALLY GRABBED A BOOK THERE...

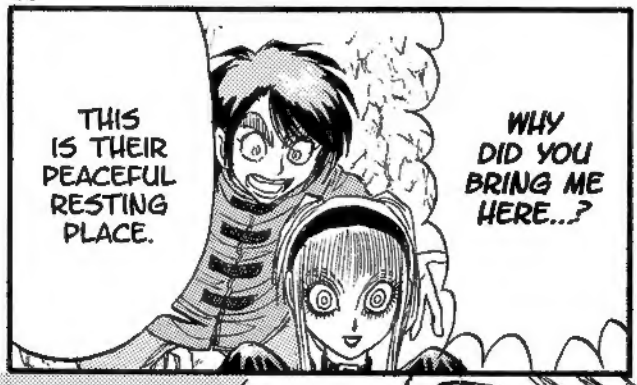
IMAGINING WHAT WOULD BE LIKE TO BE EMBRACED BECAME MY ONLY ENJOYMENT.
SINCE THEN, I BEGAN TO READ HUMAN LOVE STORIES...

IT DESCRIBED THE ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A HUMAN MAN AND WOMAN.
GONE WITH THE WIND
Margaret Mitchell

FRAN-CINE? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT SHIRO-GANE!?
AND LADY FRANCINE ORDERED US TO NOT HURT ANY HUMANS...
THAT'S WHY I SAVED YOU.
...AND THEN YOU WENT AHEAD AND DID IT.
WHERE IS SHE!? I CAME HERE TO SAVE HER!!
I KNEW IT.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
...AWW, BRINGING HER UP AGAIN?

SHUT UP!! I'M AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLER! I DON'T HAVE THOSE KIND OF FEELINGS FOR SHIROGANE!!
SHE'S THE ONE YOU MOST FANTASIZE EMBRACING YOU. ♡
YOU ARE IN LOVE WITH HER.

W... WHAT'S THIS?
WELL, HERE WE ARE.


WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE...?
THIS IS THEIR PEACEFUL RESTING PLACE.

DON'T YOU THINK THE O WERE TOO FLUST-ERED?
YOU WON'T SAVE YOUR BELOVED SHIROGANE WHILE THEY'RE HERE.

UH ...!!

ゴゥゥゥゥ
THIS IS WHERE THEIR REAL BODIES ARE SLEEPING...
THE PLACE THAT PRE-SERVES THEIR HUMAN BODIES.